

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01426 082044Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /062 W
-----021371 082046Z /64

O R 082017Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9467
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1426

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GT
SUBJ: ELECTION SITREP #5

REF: GUATEMALA 1407

1. AMID TENSE ATMOSPHERE OF CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES OF FRAUD AND MANIPULATION OF OFFICIAL PRELIMINARY VOTE TALLIES, DIRECTOR OF ELECTORAL REGISTRY ARTURO MALDONADO DE LA CERDA EVENING MARCH 7 ANNOUNCED DECISION OF NATIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL TO START FROM SCRATCH IN THE TALLYING OF THE VOTE FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, NOT JUST THE VOTE SUMMARIES FROM GUATEMALA CITY PRECINCTS. MALDONADO STATED THAT IT HAD BECOME APPARENT THAT VOTE TALLY WAS INCORRECT: MANY CASES OF DOUBLE AND TRIPLE TALLYING OF FIGURES TELEGRAPHED IN FROM OUTLYING AREAS HAD BEEN NOTED; MISTAKES IN ADDITION HAD OCCURRED; AND IN GENERAL THERE WAS GREAT CONFUSION OVER WHICH MESSAGES LOGGED IN AT THE REGISTRY CONTAINED PROPERLY CERTIFIED SUMMARIES OF RETURNS. MALDONADO IMPLIED THAT ANOMALIES IN THE TALLY WERE THE RESULT OF HUMAN ERROR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01426 082044Z

RATHER THAN INTENT TO DEFRAUD. IN ANSWER TO REPORTER'S QUESTION, MALDONADO SAID ALL PARTY DELEGATES ON COUNCIL HAD AGREED WITH DECISION TO MAKE FRESH START. MALDONADO PROMISED BULLETINS AT 10 AM, 4 PM AND 10 PM UNTIL THE NEW TALLY IS CONCLUDED. (AS OF NOON MARCH 8 ELECTORAL REGISTRY HAD NOT ANNOUNCED ANY NEW FIGURES.) THIS PARALLELS RECOUNT ALREADY BEGUN FOR GUATEMALA CITY

AS RESULT OF BLATANT TAMPERING REVEALED IN EARLY MORNING
MARCH 6.

2. MEANWHILE, CAMPAIGN OF MUTUAL VITUPERATION BETWEEN
PERALTA AZURDIA AND LUCAS CAMPS CONTINUES UNDIMINISHED.
NEW INGREDIENT IS LUCAS' PERSONAL CHARGE THAT MLN'S
SANDOVAL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALTERATION OF GUATEMALA
CITY TALLY SHEETS, SUPPOSEDLY AS PLOY TO STOP THE VOTE
TALLYING AND GIVE SANDOVAL TIME TO ORGANIZE AN MLN FRAUD.

3. LUCAS AND PERALTA AZURDIA CONTINUE TO APPEAR IN PAID RADIO
SPOTS ALERTING THEIR SUPPORTERS TO RESPECTIVE FRAUD CLAIMS,
STATING THEY ARE PREPARED TO DEFEND RESPECTIVE VICTORIES
BUT AT THE SAME TIME CALLING FOR CALM.

4. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN QUIETEST OF THE THREE
CONTENDING PARTIES. PRIVATELY THEY ACCUSE BOTH LUCAS
AND PERALTA AZURDIA CAMPS OF MAJOR FRAUD PRIMARILY AT PERALTA
MENDEZ' EXPENSE, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ABSTENTIONS AND
INTENTIONAL VOIDING OF BALLOTS HURT THEIR CAUSE.

5. DECISION TO BEGIN NEW VOTE TALLY HAS CALMED PASSIONS
SOMEWHAT, BUT UNLESS BEHIND-THE-SCENES NEGOTIATIONS ENSUE,
WE EXPECT SHRILL ATMOSPHERE TO RESUME ONCE NEW, INEVITABLY
CONTROVERSIAL TALLIES ARE RELEASED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GUATEM 01426 082044Z

6. IN PRE-DEPARTURE CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF, ELECTION
OBSERVER JOHN PLANK REFLECTED UNDERSTANDABLY SKEPTICAL
VIEW OF THE WHOLE PROCESS, OBSERVING THAT WHILE GUATEMALA
HAD OUTGROWN THE BANANA REPUBLIC LABEL IN MANY RESPECTS,
IT STILL SEEMED TO FIT POLITICALLY. PLANK, IN ADDITION,
NOTED IN PASSING THAT A HIGH-LEVEL LUCAS SUPPORTED HAD
READILY ACKNOWLEDGED TO HIM THAT THE LUCAS CAMP (AS WELL
AS THE OTHERS) HAD ENGAGED IN FRAUD.

7. THERE WAS ANGRY DEMONSTRATION AFTERNOON MARCH 7 OUT-
SIDE MUNICIPAL BUILDING BY SUPPORTERS OF MAYORAL CANDIDATE
JOSE MARIA RUIZ FURLAN (PADRE CHEMITA). ALSO DURING THE
AFTERNOON PERALTA AZURDIA, ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE NUMBER OF ARMED
MLN BODYGUARDS, ARRIVED AT THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY TO DEMAND
PRIVATE UNSCHEDULED MEETING WITH ELECTORAL REGISTRAR
MALDONALDO DE LA CERDA. BODYGUARDS, ACCORDING TO SOME
PRESS ACCOUNTS, PREVENTED ENTRY AND EXIT FROM BUILDING
FOR DURATION OF INTERVIEW. ARMY, IN RESPONSE TO ELECTORAL
REGISTRAR'S REQUEST, IS NOW GUARDING THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY.
ASIDE FROM ABOVE, NO SIGNIFICANT DISORDERS HAVE BEEN
REPORTED.

8. AT 12:30, ELECTORAL REGISTRY ANNOUNCED THIS INITIAL,
REVISED TALLY OF PARTIAL RETURNS (GUATEMALA CITY RETURNS
EXCLUDED):

LUCAS (PR/PID) 173,237 (37.2 PERCENT)
PERALTA AZURDIA (MLN) 168,068 (36.1 PERCENT)
PERALTA MENDEZ (DCG) 124,053 (26.7 PERCENT)

WE NOTE THAT THESE PERCENTAGES REPRESENT VIRTUALLY THE
SAME TREND REFLECTED IN THE TALLY JUNKED YESTERDAY.
BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, ALLEGATIONS, ELECTION FRAUD
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GUATEM01426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-1142
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780394/aaaadbld.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 27ce97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GUATEMALA 1407
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3407752
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION SITREP #5
TAGS: PINT, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27ce97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014